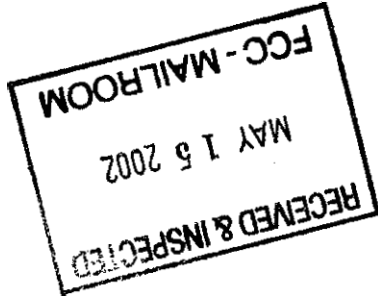
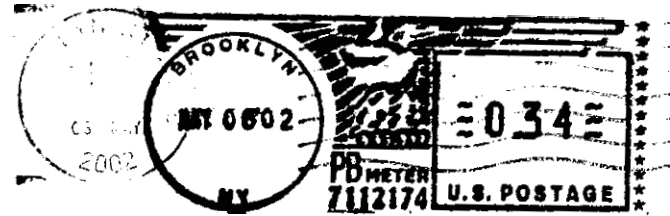




PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN  
MARTY MARKOWITZ

BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL 209 JORALEMON STREET BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201



Mr. Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554



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**PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN**  
**MARTY MARKOWITZ**

BOROUGH HALL 209 JORALEMON STREET BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 718/802-3700 FAX 718/802-3959

May 7, 2002

Mr. Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of Brooklyn's 2.5 million residents to urge you to take into consideration the needs of the public as you consider and review the proposed acquisition by the EchoStar of the DirectTV subsidiary of Hughs/General Motors.

In Brooklyn, as is the case around the country, the cable television providers **are** obligated to provide community access channels and provide operating support for our local community access organization, BCAT. **As** a result, there is direct community participation and involvement at **a** neighborhood level, and informational needs **of** the Borough's diverse communities are met in ways that commercial television, and even the public broadcasting system, cannot approach.

Unfortunately, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) systems have to date not acknowledged any obligation to similarly serve the needs of the communities that pay for their services. And because these providers are generally exempt from the local franchise review processes that have shaped the cable industry, it is incumbent upon the FCC to include among the conditions it may impose in any approval **of** the Echostar / DirectTV merger a requirement that both **DBS** services provide both channel access and funding for local public access television. At **a** minimum, they should be required to carry existing public access channels.

02-782551

Chairman Michael Powell

May 7, 2002

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Although I am told that the satellite systems have historically pointed to a lack of technology as one reason they cannot provide targeted, local programming, I understand that recent advances have greatly increased their ability to focus their programming at a local level. I urge you to put the services to the test and impose well defined, fixed schedule for the provision of public access as part of any approval by your Commission.

Sincerely,



Marty Markowitz